



1021st meeting of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society

8:00PM Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Knights of Columbus Hall, 2800 Taraval St. at 38th Ave. San Francisco

“Grading Paper Money” Charles Woodruff

**Pacific Coast Numismatic Society
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Please join us this month to hear our guest speaker *Charles Woodruff* tell us about paper money.

1020th meeting- March 2001

British Coin Weights - Larry Reppeteau

Larry Reppeteau gave the membership a very spirited talk on the history of British Coin Weights and included a pair of handouts so we could follow along with his presentation.

Larry explained that after coinage began in Asia Minor by the Lydians, it spread across the various cities and states of Europe and Asia because of its convenience for trade.

Pieces of precious metal of a convenient size and uniform weight could be traded by many different merchants without having to weigh sacks of bullion and best of all, governments could collect levies and taxes easily! But as so often occurs, the counterfeiter reared his ugly head and along with the normal wear and tear borne by metal pieces, a standardized weight was an obvious need. Thus coin weights were developed by various governments (Roman, Greek, etc) to control coins that circulated within their borders.

British coin weights did not develop until the 14th century because the silver penny circulated freely for upwards of 500 years and that was the only coin needed for commerce during that period. However, after the Crusades when men had experienced new foods and new cultures, the demand for those goods and services meant extensive trade.

Of course, trade for such items meant that Britain was paid in gold and had to determine how to accept such payment easily and also how to develop its own standardized gold coinage that would be accepted. Thus coin weights came about. Many of the first weights were square with royal representations, made of lead or pewter and later bronze. As they developed further, they were made round with a crude representation of

the coin stamped onto the base metal piece. With the discovery of the New World and the consequent importation of large amounts of silver and gold, there was an explosion of the need for coin weights to monitor the many different coins that began to circulate in England.

Then as England became more and more a trade and manufacturing center, many more coin weights were developed as needed until around the late 1600s and early 1700s, a merchant would need upwards of 20 coin weights on hand to conduct his business. International trade dominated the period from the early 1700s to late 1770s such that weights for Portuguese moidores, French pistoles, and English crowns, half crowns, shillings, guineas, etc., were needed.

Following the 1700s and the period of complex guinea weights, official weights for checking sovereign and half sovereign were made until the era of coin weights officially ended in the late 1800s.

Larry's presentation was concluded by an examination by the attendees of his collection of British Coin Weights including an actual portable scale balance. The entire presentation was videotaped and is available to members on a lending basis for the cost of postage, \$3.00.

CSNA Symposium

Progress continues on the second Educational Symposium. We expect to make a final selection of time and location at the April meeting. The slate of speakers has not been fully determined yet, so please come and participate in this process.

Obsolete Bank of America notes *George Proctor*



One dollar note, Bank of America, New York City

Haxby's Standard Catalog of United States Obsolete Bank Notes, 1782-1866 lists eight institutions named Bank of America. They are located in DC, IL, IN, LA, NJ, NY, RI, and TN. The following is a list of the organizations named Bank of America that issued the so-called "obsolete" banknotes. The list is based on information gleaned from Haxby's Standard Catalog of United States Obsolete Bank Notes, 1782-1866 (Haxby) and supplemented by the excellent single state books published by the Society of Paper Money Collectors (SPMC).

Georgetown, DC

Haxby: DC-50 1852-ca.55 Fraudulent, possibly non-existent bank.
Imprint: Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson

Chicago, IL

Haxby: IL-130, 1852-57 Fate: closed
Imprint: Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Co.

Mt. Carmel, IL

Haxby: IL-545, 1859-62 Fate: closed
Imprint: American Banknote Company; Toppan, Carpenter & Co.

Morocco, IN

Haxby: IN-425 1854-55 Fate: failed
SPMC: IN 530
Imprint: Baldwin, Adams & Co. New York

New Orleans, LA

Haxby: LA-5, 1857-ca.62, Fate: closed

Imprints: Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson; American Banknote Company

Cape May Court House, NJ

Haxby: NJ-80, 1851-53 Fate: closed

Imprints: Non-Genuine, M&T, Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson, Danforth, Underwood & Co., New York; Underwood, Bald, Spencer & Hufty

Jersey City, NJ

Haxby: NJ-225, 1862-63, Fate: closed/failed

Imprint: National Bank Note Company

Buffalo, NY

Haxby: NY-350, 1839-41, Fate: failed.

Imprints: HP&C; Rawdon, Wright & Hatch

New York City, NY

Haxby: NY-1435, 1812-1928, Fate: Unknown

Imprints: Leney & Rollinson; Maverick, Murray, Draper, Fairman; Danforth, Underwood & Co., New York; American Banknote Company; Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson; Ormsby

Providence, RI

Haxby: RI-235, 1851-90 absorbed by Bank of America Loan & Trust Co.

Known genuine notes are imprinted: National Bank Note Co. New York; Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Co., New York & Phila.

Clarksville, TN (also Brownsville, Dresden, Rogersville)

Haxby: TN-15, 1856-58

Imprints: Baldwin, Bald & Cousland, New York; Bald, Cousland & Co., Philadelphia

Exhibits (summaries by *Herb Miles*)

Jack Free exhibited his Knights of The Maccabees medal or KOTM, an organization founded in 1878, currently with approximately 2800 members in 117 groups around the nation. Jack also brought some PPIE miniature pans with a handout noting there are 12 different examples commemorating the exposition.

Cal Rogers brought his latest acquisitions, three Tibetan coins that he did not already have!

Stephen M. Huston discussed his Royal Mint token, perhaps a token for internal purchasing at the British Royal Mint.

Ken Takahashi exhibited his Gallery Mint 1796 and 1794 Silver Dollars and noted that these are affordable unlike the real ones! Ken also brought a Chinese Gold coin from the Yunnan province worth at its minting about 5 Yuans.

Mark Wm. Clark brought some Chinese coin ashtrays with 20-cent pieces embedded in the bottom.

Paul Holtzman exhibited his slabbed paperweight, a very large silver coin with a bird on it than *Phil Nordin* expertly encapsulated.

Lori Reppeteau exhibited her trio of Opium weights, 3 chicken figures, and noted that the weights originated in the 17th century and were based on the Kyat standard. Common figures used are elephants, ducks, and lions as well as the chickens.

Gordon Donnell brought a 1 dollar bill containing almost all 4's in the serial number, a match safe from the 1904 St. Louis Fair and Exposition, an encased cent from a jewelry store, an elongate from the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics, a leather

postcard which had gone through the mail, and a PPIE livestock book.

George Proctor brought several new notes, a Vermont note and a facsimile note on card stock from the town founded by his great grandfather, Proctorville, a Russian 5 Kopeks, a souvenir of the Crane Paper Company (who make the U. S. currency paper), and a weighty coin!

Jerry Schimmel brought some "Roberts at the Beach" tokens, but had to leave early so we did not get to hear their story. Perhaps another time?

Raffle

Four prizes went to:

- 1) Two Books, "The Coins of the Republic of Mexico 1823-1905 & Empire of Maximilian 1864-1867" by Dr. G. W. Vogt & "The Comprehensive Catalog & Encyclopedia of Modern Mexican Coins" by William L Hanks were won by *Paul Holtzman*.
- 2) A 3 Medal Set (Bronze, Antiqued Bronze & Silver) of CSNA medals from the 107th Convention in Arcadia, California went home with *Jack Free*.
- 3) PPIE "Tower of Jewels" so-called dollar, HK#414 was taken by *Larry Reppeteau*.
- 4) A San Francisco postcard with PPIE cancellation left with *George Proctor*.

PPIE Auction

There is no PPIE auction this month and the ebay completion of last's month auction has been delayed in order to sort out a sales tax issue. Look for more items next month.

Willie Mays Souvenir Pocket Piece *Michael Wehner*



Barry Bonds hits his 500th home run into the San Francisco Bay to win the game against the much despised Los Angeles Dodgers. This dramatic moment plus his 472 stolen bases certainly reserves a place for him in the Hall of Fame. Nonetheless, the greatest player to ever wear the Giants uniform is certainly Willie Mays. With the third highest career total of 660 home runs, the “Say Hey Kid” was one of the flashiest to ever play centerfield. In addition to his obvious power, he could also run (338 stolen bases) and hit for percentage (3283 hits, .302 lifetime batting average). His fielding abilities are also legendary, from his cap flying off as he ran towards the ball (it deliberately was a size too small!) to his famous over the shoulder game saving catch in the first game of the 1954 World Series against the Cleveland Indians.

This pocket piece commemorates his 600th home run and features his number (24) on a baseball. As Mays finished the 1969 season with exactly 600 runs, it probably dates from 1970.